

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /075 W

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R 280805Z MAR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: ANTICIPATED SADDAM HUSSEIN VISIT TO MOSCOW

BAGHDAD 216; 244 (NOTAL)

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AL-NAGGAR TELLS ME THAT RCC VICE
CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW NOW SET FOR APRIL 12-15.

2. COMMENT: VISIT COMES AT PARTICULARLY INTERESTING
JUNCTURE IN SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS. IRAQ HAS JUST
CONCLUDED MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ACCORD WITH IRAN WITHOUT,
BY ALL ACCOUNTS, EVEN CONSULTING ITS RUSSIAN TREATY ALLY.
AS REPORTED BAGHDAD 244, SOVIETS HAD STRONG POLICY
DISAGREEMENT WITH GOI OVER KURDISH POLICY AND HAD
APPARENTLY EVEN STOPPED DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH GOI. IF
KURDISH CONFLICT IN FACT OVER AND RAPPROCHEMENT WITH IRAN
CONTINUES, MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR IRAQI
DEPENDENCE ON USSR FOR ARMS AND PROTECTION HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

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COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS HERE GLOOMILY IMPLYING THAT IRAQ NOW

ABOUT TO TURN COMPLETELY TO WEST, INCLUDING RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH U.S.

3. WHILE STRONG SOVIET POSITION HAS BEEN UNDERCUT BY IRANIAN-IRAQI ACCORD, SADDAM HUSSEIN IS NOW LIKELY TO ATTEMPT TO PATCH UP DIFFERENCES WITH USSR AND PERHAPS EVEN EXPAND RELATIONS IN SOME RELATIVELY HARMLESS SECTORS. I BELIEVE REGIME WILL WISH TO MAINTAIN SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR FOR ECONOMIC, IDEOLOGICAL, MILITARY AND PRESTIGE REASONS. CHANGE WILL BE ONE OF DEGREE. SOVIET ROLE IN MILITARY AND SECURITY SECTORS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REDUCED.

4. FATE OF ICP MAY BE MORE DRASTIC. TACTICAL ALLIANCE AGAINST KURDS NO LONGER NECESSARY. COMMUNIST MINISTERS HAVE NO REAL POWER AND IMPORTANCE OF ICP ROLE IN NATIONAL FRONT HAS BEEN DILUTED BY ADDITION OF KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY, KURDISH REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF "INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST FORCES". LOWRIE

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